

Conservation Working Group Meeting Minutes- September 18, 2001

Attendance: SOS, Sierra Club (Monterey and Santa Cruz), FOSO, WWF, TOC, Pelican Network, Coastal Commission, MBNMS, John Fisher, Dave Zaches.

Announcements:

Molly announced that a new Sanctuary Stewards training course is underway.

Kaitilin announced that two Bay Net training courses were beginning – one in Monterey and one in Santa Cruz and informed the CWG of the updated timeline for the MLPA process.

Vicki informed the CWG of the formation of a new group – the Coalition of Organizations for Ocean Life (COOL), made up of conservation groups and non-consumptive divers and focusing on the Marine Life Protection Act. Several CWG members are part of this new coalition. COOL is working to identify critical habitat areas for protection under the MLPA as well as developing outreach strategies to inform the public about the conservation benefits of marine reserves.

Sanctuary Report:

- Holly noted that the public scoping meetings for the Management Plan will take place the first two weeks in December and the first two weeks in January and that the final schedule would be out shortly.
- Holly informed the CWG that a small vessel grounded at Pfeiffer Big Sur recently, spilling 500 g of diesel into the kelp bed and noted that removal of grounded vessels was a problem since the Coast Guard only removes fuel and frequently the vessel owners do not carry liability insurance.
- John Fisher noted that the First Flush water monitoring event would be coming up soon (depending on when the first rain falls).

Management Plan Review Priority Issues:

The CWG reviewed the revised draft matrix of conservation priorities to present to the SAC. Several changes were suggested mostly emphasizing stronger protection of sanctuary resources. Vicki Nichols will present the matrix at the Oct. 5th SAC meeting in Capitola.

The next CWG meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16th from 9:30-12:30 at the Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room.